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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

F730300-1087

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: October 15,1957

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA: Further Conversation with Francisco Anguiano Regarding Presidential Elections.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Francisco Anguiano, former First Secretary of the Guatemalan Embassy, Washington
MDN - Mr. Bayard King BK

COPIES TO: ARA
OLI (2)
RPA
L - Mr. Becker
Amembassy Guatemala

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Sunshine OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B-201

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Mr. King received Mr. Anguiano at the latter's request. Mr. Anguiano said he called to follow up his talk of September 24, 1957 with Mr. Becker, the Legal Adviser, and Mr. King. He presented another memorandum which was essentially an exposition of his view that General Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is the only person who can provide a stable government for Guatemala, and continue the programs of the late President Castillo Armas for bettering economic conditions in the country and the lives of the Guatemalan people. Mr. Anguiano stated that were a truly free election held on October 20, General Ydigoras would certainly win as he had the support of the great majority of the Guatemalan people. He said that the Government and the MDN were going to deny the Presidency to General Ydigoras by rigging the elections in favor of the MDN candidate, Miguel Ortiz Passerrelli. Mr. Anguiano said this would be a disaster for Guatemala and would result in strikes, revolutionary activities, and similar disorders which might well undo all that was accomplished under Castillo Armas.

Mr. Anguiano said that he hoped the Department could state emphatically to "the right people in Guatemala" its "wish" that the elections be truly free and not illegally rigged in favor of Ortiz Passerrelli. Mr. King said that as Mr. Anguiano knew the Department had a policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries and that it would not interfere in any way in the October 20 elections in Guatemala. He added that the Department hoped that the Guatemalan people would on that day be able freely to choose the man they wanted to be their President for the coming six-year term.

Mr. Anguiano

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Mr. Anguiano at some length alluded to what he termed the successful army plot in Guatemala to assassinate Castillo Armas because the late President "was preparing his own re-election." He also repeated his accusations made on September 24 against Colonel Jose Luis Cruz-Salazar, Guatemalan Ambassador to Washington, and other key but unscrupulous military figures who were, he said, at present in control of the army in Guatemala and therefore in control of the country and Government as well. Mr. King said he knew the Guatemalan Ambassador very well and he doubted that he had been engaged in any plots against either the government of Col. Castillo Armas or the interim government that succeeded him. Mr. King recalled that on September 24 Mr. Anguiano had said he hoped to raise funds in the United States for General Ydigoras' campaign, and asked whether he had been successful in this respect. Mr. Anguiano said he had "not been able to raise a penny". He added that after the elections he intended to reside in the United States and engage in the export-import business between this country and Guatemala.

ARA:HD:BKing:b,
10/16/57